

LTA COMPETITION REGULATIONS

OVERLAPPING COMPETITION REGULATION

WHAT IS THE REGULATION?

LTA Competition Regulations 3.10 (b)

In relation to LTA Staged Winter Competitions (i.e. National Tour, weekend Winter Regional Tour, and weekend Winter County Tour tournaments) a player **can enter** only one competition at each grade in the same age group taking place on the same weekend.

Explanatory note: If a 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour weekend competition is taking place on a Saturday and Sunday a player may not enter another 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition taking place that weekend. However, this player may enter a 14U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition and/or a grade 4 Winter County Tour competition taking place on the same weekend. Following publication of acceptances, **the player would have to withdraw from all but one of the competitions entered before the respective withdrawal deadlines in order to avoid penalty.**

WHAT DOES 'LTA STAGED' MEAN?

'LTA Staged' refers to all Winter National Tour, Winter Regional Tour **weekend** events and Winter County Tour grade 4 **weekend** events run by the LTA, either centrally or by the local regional office. In addition, the British Tour Tier 3 and Summer County Tour grade 4 weekend events are also included.

'LTA Approved' competitions, which are run by clubs/organisers and are approved by the LTA as meeting specific grading guidelines, are not included in this regulation. 'LTA Approved' competitions include week-long competitions during school holiday periods.

WHAT TOURNAMENTS DOES THIS APPLY TO?

The LTA Staged Overlapping Competition Regulation will apply to:

- Winter National Tour (Grade 2)
- Winter Regional Tour (Grade 3) Weekend Events
- Winter County Tour (Grade 4) Weekend Events
- Summer County Tour (Grade 4) Weekend Events
- British Tour Tier 3 (Grade 3)

DOES IT APPLY TO ALL AGE GROUPS?

Yes. The LTA Staged regulation covers all age groups (including the new 11U age group) and both singles and doubles events.

DOES THIS REGULATION APPLY TO DOUBLES AS WELL?

Yes. Doubles events are included in this rule.

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WHY WAS THIS REGULATION BEEN INTRODUCED?

During the 2012-2013 winter season a significant number of parents, players and organisers felt that their competition experience was negatively affected by players entering and holding places in multiple competitions.

We consulted with a large number of parents, players and organisers to assist us in identifying a solution to deal with this issue and the new regulation was the preferred option as voted for by the majority of people in the above groups.

WHAT DOES THE REGULATION MEAN?

Players will now only be able to enter and play in **1** competition at each grade in each age group per weekend. For example:

In relation to LTA Staged Winter Regional Tour (WRT) competitions a player will only be able to enter one 12U event that is taking place on the weekend of the 12th/13th October.

In relation to the County Tour a player will only be able to play in one grade 4 event per weekend. If there is a 14U Boys Singles grade 4 event on a Saturday and another 14U Boys Singles grade 4 event on the Sunday of the same weekend **then the player will need to select one competition to enter.**

Players can enter competitions of the same grade if they are in different age groups, so they could enter one 14U Boys Singles County Tour grade 4 event on a Saturday and also enter and compete in a 12U Boys Singles County Tour grade 4 event on a Sunday.

If a player is entering more than one event per weekend where the event dates overlap the player must be aware of the full regulation on Overlapping Competitions and understand that, following the publication of acceptances, **they will have to withdraw from all but one of the competitions entered before the respective withdrawal deadlines in order to avoid penalty.**

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW REGULATION?

- Many more players will be accepted into competitions at the closing date because players will not be able to hold multiple spaces in competitions of the same grade
- The new regulation is fair for all players as it doesn't allow the minority to pick their most favorable event
- The new regulation makes it simpler for parents and players to understand and manage competition entry fees
- Travel and accommodation can be planned further in advance because a player's status is known as soon as acceptances are published
- Draw sizes will not dramatically reduce at the withdrawal deadline and organisers/referees will have a more realistic idea of the likely number of players in their competition at the closing date
- Position on reserve list will be more meaningful and give a better indication of the likelihood of being accepted

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- The structure of the Winter competition allows players who are not accepted into the higher graded competition to try and win a space by entering the linked event at a lower grade

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I BREACH THE LTA STAGED RULE?

A player who is found to contravene the Overlapping Competition LTA Staged Regulation will lose all ranking points gained from all competitions. Where relevant, the player will also be ineligible to accept any corresponding linked spaces (the player may still apply directly for the linked competition).

ARE THERE ANY OTHER REGULATIONS I NEED TO CONSIDER?

Players may continue to enter competitions of differing age groups or grades.

If a player is entering more than one event per week where the tournament dates overlap, players must be aware of the full Overlapping Competitions Regulations (3.10) and understand that if a Player, in order to play in an overlapping event:

- ★ a) Withdraws from an event after having started a match in that event;
- b) fails to appear at an event ready and prepared to play without having withdrawn;
- c) retires during an event; and/or
- d) gives a walkover during an event;

he/she will lose all Ranking points obtained from all of the overlapping events and may incur further disciplinary action.

Ultimately the player must decide if they can play in both events or if they will have to withdraw from all but one of the competitions entered before the respective withdrawal deadlines in order to avoid penalty.

If a player is found to have contravened the regulations, then they will lose all ranking points obtained from both competitions.